VICTORY FLASHES

from MUHLENBERG

March 8, 1946
Number 82

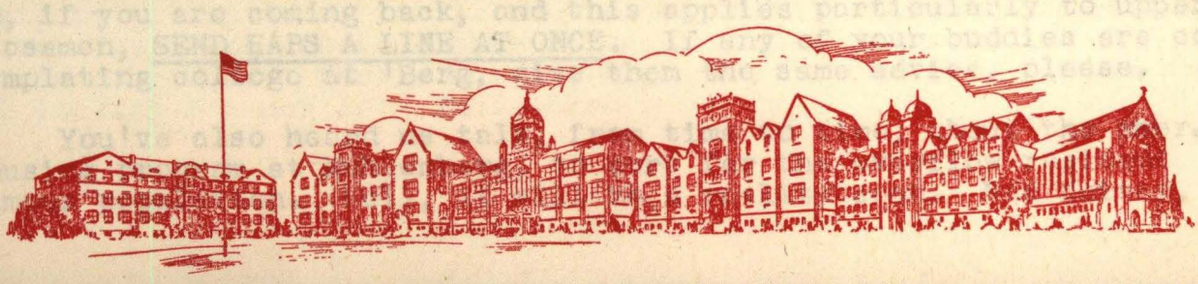
Dear Mules:

With this issue the writer again takes up a very pleasant task which I laid down some twenty six months ago when Uncle Samuel called me to active duty. During that time the letters have continued coming regularly, spreading the story of Muhlenberg and her sons in their activities, all over the globe. Gordon B. Fister, who took over my job along with his many duties in the Public Relations Office, has done a grand piece of work and I, personally, am grateful, and I know many of you have also expressed your sentiments along that line to him. Here at Muhlenberg, we have formed the habit of pitching in and keeping things running at top speed in spite of handicaps, and Gordon has done that very thing, in his work in the Alumni Office. As we say in the Navy, "Well done, Gordon", and thanks a million for a 4.0 performance.

To say that I am delighted to return to Muhlenberg is putting it mildly. No more watches, no more duty sections, no more liberty restrictions, out-of-bounds chits, no more red tape (huh, I can hear somebody say, just wait till he gets back into the full swing of civilian life and tries to figure out his income tax----anyhow, I'll TRY liking it), well, it's really grand to be a civilian again. Of course, my hat brim seemed a mile wide, the first time I tried it on, and the first time I looked into a mirror and saw another tie below my double chins instead of the conventional black, (even though it was only a mild brown and yellow striped affair), I was aghast, but I tried hard and am really finding the job of reconversion to Civilian First Class an enjoyable experience. You all must try it sometime--it's a grand feeling.

Gordon told you in his last letter that I probably would be bragging about our basketball team and he certainly is correct. I did plenty of bragging while I was in service and believe me, that record which the Mules have set this year has the name of our college on the lips of a good many people. 21 out of 23 games won is the finest record ever hung up by a Mule team and these boys are going to add more glory to Muhlenberg before another three weeks have passed by. First, let me bring you up to date on the games played since the last letter. We defeated Gettysburg in Allentown on February 23 to the tune of 56-34 and the following Monday, went to Madison Square Garden and took St. Francis into camp, 70-50. Then came the welcome news that Muhlenberg had been invited to the National Invitation Tournament at Madison Square Garden. 'Berg was the second team to be selected to participate in this classic along with West Virginia, Kentucky, Syracuse, Bowling Green, and St. John's. The two remaining teams have not as yet been selected but announcements should be forthcoming soon. As soon as the teams have been named, pairings can be made, so watch your papers for the results and keep right on rooting for your representatives on the court.

Before going to the Garden, the 'Berg hoopsters have a date to keep at Grace Hall in Bethlehem, where the Middle Atlantic Conference playoffs will take place March 11 and 12. Muhlenberg meets Lafayette



for the Northern division title while Ursinus and Rutgers tangle for top place in the Southern division. The following night, the four teams play again, the winner of the 'Berg-Lafayette game meeting the winner of the Southern division and the losers playing also. Incidentally, no requests for tickets please, because the Athletic Office cannot begin to handle all the requests for tickets. We're sorry, but Grace Hall holds only 2500 people and there are not enough tickets to go around among all the eager fans who have so loyally supported the team this season.

Spring football practice got under way yesterday afternoon when sixty eager candidates met with Coaches Schwartzwalder, Lough, and Barker for the initial practice session. Most of the time was spent in limbering up stiff muscles and working out kinks which have developed during the long winter months. A good many of the candidates are veterans, some of whom have not played football for some time and there are a goodly number of high school stars who will make competition for places on the starting eleven a real test. Practice probably will continue for the month of March, so if you are in our vicinity, drop around and give the boys the once-over.

Baseball, tennis and track, traditional Spring sports at Muhlenberg, are again getting under way with schedules arranged and hopefuls limbering up their pitching arms, stretching tennis muscles and trying out new spikes on the track. It is not possible to give you any definite dates, as arrangements have not yet been completed, but the lineup looks like this. In baseball, we will probably meet Lafayette, Moravian, Lehigh, Gettysburg, Swarthmore, Penn State, F. & M., Bucknell, and Princeton. "Hoss" Lough will be the basebell coach and indications are that the baseball nine will be a credit to the school. John "Doc" Shankweiler will again tutor the racket-swingers who will meet such opponents across the nets as Swarthmore, Gettysburg, Lehigh, Haverford, Johns Hopkins, and Bucknell. The track squad under the direction of Coach Barker, is also planning to take the measure of Gettysburg and Lehigh in a dual meet, participate in the Penn Relays, the Middle Atlantic Association, and the Intercollegiate American Association of Amateur Athletics (wow, what a mouthful). As soon as schedules have been arranged, we'll give you all the dope.

Gordon also mentioned in his last letter that this little college would be bursting at the seams along about the first of March and he was 100% correct. I have just checked with Haps, who, incidentally, has been busier than a three ring circus for the past several months, and he tells me that the registration figures show, (Hold your breath,) FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY CIVILIAN STUDENTS AND ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY NAVY TRAINEES. Yes, it's true, 700 men are pursuing their education at Muhlenberg and we are proud of the fact that this college has really gone all out for this purpose. The Navy men are occupying League, West Berks and East Berks Halls, while the upper classmen are billetted (darn, there's that Navy language cropping out again--guess my reconversion hasn't taken full effect as yet) in Rhodes, E, F, and G halls with the Freshmen located in West Hall. About fifty men are occupying rooms downtown, which have been provided by the citizens of Allentown who have cooperated nicely in the college's search for quarters for its students. Approximately 350 of the civilian student body are veterans who are taking advantage of the G.I. Bill of Rights. These men realize the desirability of a college education and are entering into the life at Muhlenberg with enthusiasm and a high degree of interest. And Muhlenberg is going all out to assure them the best possible training in their chosen fields.

Haps asked me to give you fellows who are planning to return to the campus a special message and suggested that I write it in letters a foot high, if possible. This typewriter, unfortunately, won't do that but I'll do the best I can and here it is--ANY OLD STUDENT, OR NEW, WHO ANTICIPATES RETURNING TO THE CAMPUS IN SEPTEMBER, OR ANY OTHER TIME, PLEASE CONTACT HAPS AT ONCE, REPEAT, AT ONCE. This is vitally necessary, as enrollments are increasing at an alarming rate and Haps wants to get his registrations lined up as soon as possible. So, if you are coming back, and this applies particularly to upper classmen, SEND HAPS A LINE AT ONCE. If any of your buddies are contemplating college at 'Berg, give them the same advice, please.

You've also heard us talk, from time to time, about the emer- housing program at Muhlenberg, to care for the overflow resident campus population. Well, it will be a reality soon. Ned Keiter,

our Business Manager, informed me this morning that the units would probably be ready for occupancy about the fifteenth of April. These will be erected on the site of the old obstacle course (do some of you fellows in the V-12 program remember?) and will provide much needed accomodations for 60 men and ten families. At present, the reservation list is filled but there may be vacancies later on in the year.

One of the pleasant tasks that has been mine, since I returned to the office on March 1, has been meeting the men who have returned to civilian life and who drop into the office and shoot the breeze, as all of you are most welcome to do at any time. Just out of uniform and back in civies, looking fit as ever, was MAURICE GEIGER '46, who left the Army via Indiantown Gap on Feb. 26. GEIGER has many memories of the plains of Texas, where he did his basic training, LeGarde General Hospital, New Orleans, La., Texas again, where he spent about four months in the hospital recovering from jaw injuries (really, he claims that it was the result of an auto accident and not someone's right), and Newfoundland where he hibernated from November 1944 to February 1946. Another visitor was CORPORAL HAROLD KREVSKY '43 who is planning to go to dental school as soon as he garners a few more courses. KREVSKY was a Celestial Navigation instructor at Pyote, Texas, and did Personnel Affairs Consulting at Tuscon, Arizona and Rome, New York. MARSHALL R. ROGERS V-45 came back to the campus all the way from sunny Florida to resume the work he had here as a Naval trainee and go on for his degree. MIKE, a B.M. 1/C in the Navy, served at Peru, Indiana, the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, where he did everything from shakedowns to shore patrol, then came to Muhlenberg in July 1944 with the V-12 Unit. Later he was transferred to Villanova and then discharged to Civilian First Class. ROGERS has the American Theatre, Pacific Theatre, Good Conduct and Victory ribbons with three battle stars on his Pacific ribbon to show for his three years and three months of service. Home on leave and expecting his return to civilian life in September is ENSIGN MERVIN J. SHUMAN V-44. SHUMAN returned to the States this year after being on the LSM 378 where he served as Gunnery Officer and Engineering officer and participated in the Okinawa campaign, made landings at Wakyahamma, and visited various islands in the Pacific in his job of carrying troops and rolling equipment. It certainly was good to see these men and I'll be looking forward to seeing all of you some time soon.

And now, (as Walter Winchell sometimes says) for the mail if time and (as Kitty tells me) space will allow. CHAPLAIN JOHN H.K. MILLER '32 writes from MTO the news that since the middle of November he has been a staff chaplain with all of the chaplains in the MTO under his command. John has a Corporal who keeps him informed daily on the progress made by the Mules on the basketball court and he frequently sees CHAPLAIN FRANK BROWN '19, with whom he reminisces on their days at college. Both are hoping to come home soon and are rooting for the S.S. Muhlenberg to carry them back to the States.

CLINTON E. WALTER, E.T.M. 3/C '43 writes that he is located on the East Coast, though still carrying an FPO address and hopes to be home to stay soon. Congratulations are due LIEUTENANT HOWARD G. BLANK '44 who has been appointed as Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General of the First Marine Division in China, General DeWitt Peck. He has an opportunity to see plenty of China in his travels with the General and also has had a bull session with HANK BROWN '44, also JIM CAPEHART, KEITH BLOOM, BOB HACKMAN AND DICK MILLER, all former V-12er's. All these Marines are rooting for 'Berg teams as they carry the laurels of our college on the hardwood. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HOWARD H. HATT V-44, stationed on the U.S.S. Wyoming tells us that he is planning to return to college and finish his work in Geology.

A very interesting letter has been received from MAJOR RICHARD N. THOMPSON '41 who is back in Germany where he is a Housing Officer in the Welfare Department of the Office of Military Government, Berlin District. Thompson has been working hard trying to put roofs over the heads of Berliners and has been quite successful. He compares his job to juggling a hand-grenade which might explode at any moment, but in spite of it all, he is thoroughly enjoying the work. Word has just been received that he was awarded the Croix de Guerre. His trips throughout Europe have covered thirty countries, and he is still looking for men from Muhlenberg.

One of the items which always used to attract my attention, when I was on the receiving end of these letters, was the comments and travels of LIEUTENANT WILMER H. CRESSMAN '42. CRESSMAN, who is probably shuddering now as he reads this and realizes that someone else is now going to heckle him, writes a grand letter in which he describes his trials as a Navigator and his trips to Hiroshima, the famous "Atom Bomb" city. Wil is sitting in the middle of Hiro Wan, Japan, which for the benefit of you birds uneducated in Japanese (and the writer is in the front row, Professor), means bay. Hiro Wan was a former Jap Naval Air base now littered with the twisted hulls of battleships, cruisers and aircraft carriers, all mute evidence of the precision bombing of our own Air Corps. He recently had an opportunity to jeep up to the principle interest of local sightseeing, Hiroshima, where he observed the "ATOMIZED CITY RETURNING TO LIFE". Wil's letter, which you will read in the next issue of the Alumni Magazine, graphically describes life in the ruined city and speaks well of the printers blood which is still flowing in his veins.

Stateside servicemen have contributed their share to the letters which have reached the Alumni Office in the past several weeks. Here are excerpts from several of them. DONALD BOYER V-45 is now at Great Lakes where he is doing his "Boot" training and assignment to general duty pending discharge. ENSIGN E. EUGENE RUPERT '44, stationed at Key West, Florida, writes that he has had conflabs with BILL EVANS '45 and WAYNE SCHWEITZER '45. SCHWEITZER is stationed aboard a German U-Boat, preparing it for a one-way ride to the atom bomb experiment this summer. JOHN STROEHMEYER V-45 aboard the PC 592 also swapped sea stories with Gene some time ago.

T/SGT. RALPH W. BAGGER '45 changed his address to Lancaster, preparatory to his ride home from the wilds of Okinawa. Perhaps, by this time, he has made the trip. ARLINGTON LEWIS '44 is now in civies and located at Quakertown. The ever faithful correspondent of the class of 1940, GEORGE HOWATT, has laid aside his bell bottoms and returned to Coopersburg where he will divide his time between raising apples and gathering news of his classmates for the Alumni Magazine. CHAPLAIN ARTHUR R. CHATTEN '29 will take up his duties as superintendent of institutional missions of the Board of Inner Missions on March 15.

MAJOR LEROY MOYER '32 was discharged at Indiantown Gap in February after serving three and one half years in general hospitals in England, France, and Germany. At the moment he is living the life of ease in Souderton. SERGEANT BOB KRIMMEL '44 was sweating out his ship and planning to return to the campus to finish his last year at college. GEORGE S. MERKLE '33 has a new address in Emmaus, having lost his Navy one last month. BILL NIXON '33 gives us a new address in Stroudsburg, for which we are very happy. News from MARK R. POTTEIGER '39 is that by now he is back at Strausstown preparing to take over his old job in the general accounting department of Metropolitan Edison, in Reading.

Kitty has just informed me that space is running mighty short so I guess I'll have to sign off for this time. I had some more news which will have to wait until the next issue which will be coming your way in another two weeks. We'll keep these letters rolling until the last one of you is wearing that new tie and sport jacket (You'll notice that I didn't mention suits).

Loads of luck to all of you and be SURE to keep us informed of any changes in your address or status.

Cordially,

John

John H. Wagner
Alumni Secretary